



## Relationships Education

11<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Assalamualaykum, Dear Parent,

This letter is about concerns surrounding the “Children & Social Work Act (2017)” which resulted in the creation of a new compulsory subject in all primary schools: Relationships Education (RE).

This act also covers a new statutory subject in secondary schools called Relationships & Sex Education (RSE). Chapter 4 of this Act is a concern for many parents, both from a faith and non-faith background.

Some of these concerns are:

1. The divine definition (which includes the Qur’an and the Bible) of marriage will be discarded, promoting all types of relationships.
2. Traditional family and faith values are at risk.
3. The Children & Social Work Act (2017) “normalises” LGBT relationships to children.
4. It encourages children to experiment with and question their biological sex under the gender agenda. This is nothing but “sexualisation” of children from a tender and innocent age. This will only result in a society void from healthy, happy and prosperous family units.
5. It is worrying that LGBT relationships, transgender issues, pornography, contraception, sexually transmitted infections/diseases and abortion will be discussed at primary level. The state is discarding the rights of parents as the ones who should oversee their child’s learning and upbringing. Most parents do not want this, as it will bring nothing but confusion, fear and chaos in their child’s life.

6. As the LGBT lobby pushes its agenda, it totally ignores the wishes of parents. Parents must be the ones to decide when it is appropriate to raise these discussions with their children and their hand should not be forced by what is taught to them at school.
7. How will schools teach RSE and RE? The approach and outcome will wholly depend on the individual teacher. Who is to know what bias's and prejudices the teacher may hold? This is extremely worrying, as already many Muslim children have been innocent victims of other agendas like "Prevent", Relationships Education will be no different where young children will be literally forced to accept lifestyles which are contradictory to traditional family values. Those who "question" will be marginalised and possibly even put on the "Prevent" watchlist.
8. Withdrawal from these lessons will not be allowed. We contest this, as we want to keep our children safe, happy and away from chaos and confusion.
9. We appreciate values such as democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs, including preventing discrimination against those with protected characteristics. These are values that should not simply be limited to "British Values", rather they are part of the morals and compassion of humanity. What is worrying is that under the banner of "British Values" young children are going to "sexualised" and even "tricked" (we have already seen worrying headlines such as "School has SEVENTEEN children changing gender as teacher says vulnerable pupils are being 'tricked' into believing they are the wrong sex" – Nov 2018). There are many ways to tackle and address inequality including gender related issues, however this "wholesale" approach is nothing but pushing an agenda of "organisations specifically set up to promote the political interests and needs of a particular group". Schools are always falling over themselves to tick Ofsted boxes, many a time failing to make a rational assessment of those in their care, including parents and the local community.
10. The LGBT lobby is pushing its agenda under the "respect and tolerance" banner. We can teach respect and tolerance without asking our children to question their sexuality or experimenting. Your individual sexual preferences must not be forced upon others, let alone young children.

Whilst we totally adhere to the principles of equality, At the same time, we hold steadfast on to divine teachings, such as the fact that Nikah (marriage) is the bedrock of family life. Our beloved prophet (peace be upon him) declared it as the completion of half of one's faith. For us, the family unit is built upon the Nikah between a man and a woman. For children it is stability and provides a solid foundation in this extremely disorderly environment.

We pray that our children can grow up naturally, organically and free from pressure, confusion and chaos.

**Parents, teachers, faith leaders and activists must:**

1. Contact the Secretary of State for Education and your local MP. Politicians only listen when there is strong lobbying. You can write an “original” letter based on the contents of this letter.
2. Find out what your school’s policy is going to be. Raise your concerns in a professional and rational manner. Email the headteacher.
3. The governing body of a school is technically the “most powerful” authority for any school. “Service users” must always come first, hence write to them and raise your concerns.
4. This is not just an issue for any one faith, community or ethnicity. It concerns all parents and their respective children.
5. As a Madrasah we will be developing “age appropriate sessions” on this matter to provide clear Islamic guidance. It is essential our children are aware of their Islamic identity and values. Feel free to email us about this (passing on any ideas, suggestions and even any constructive criticism).

Wassalam

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Note:

We respect and adhere to the Equality Act 2010 and strongly oppose all types of discrimination, hence as an organisation and community we totally respect the decisions and choices some make regarding their gender, sexuality etc. We adopt an attitude of “live and let live”, in other words tolerance. However, at the same time we also demand that our rights, beliefs and values are respected.